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AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL
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МЕЖДУНАРОДНАЯ АМНИСТИЯ
منظمة العفو الدولية
國際特赦組織

URGENT ACTION

EXTERNAL

AI Index: ASA 21/14/96

16 February 1996

Further information on UA 263/95 (ASA 21/58/95, 23 November 1995) - Arbitrary detention / Fear of torture

EAST TIMOR **At least 20 unnamed East Timorese**

Of the group of East Timorese, detained as they were attempting to leave East Timor by boat on the night of 20 November 1995, reportedly to seek asylum in Australia, all but two have been released without charge.

Replies to members of the UA Network, sent from the Ambassador's office at the Indonesian Embassy in New Zealand in late 1995 and early 1996, stated:

> "I can confirm that 20 East Timorese were detained by the security forces on 20 November 1995 at Viqueque, East Timor. However, I have to correct your statement that these people were detained because they were attempting to seek asylum in Australia. The facts are that they were detained because they hijacked a boat and threatened the lives of other people, which is a purely criminal act...
>
> The suspects who are still being detained by the security forces, are being treated well and their rights attended to according to the criminal procedural law that is in effect in Indonesia. If strong proof is found that they have been involved in crime, they will be brought to justice according to the Indonesian criminal law.
>
> This is my explanation. I hope it will give you a clearer picture of the case, and will straighten out the disinformation which is intentionally disseminated by certain parties."

In view of the pattern of arbitrary arrests of East Timorese suspected of opposing Indonesian rule, Amnesty International remains concerned that the group may have been arrested solely for attempting to leave East Timor in order to seek asylum. The organization is seeking clarification of the charges against the two who remain in detention. While it does not yet know the identities of these two, it has been informed that they are awaiting trial. Amnesty International is concerned that they may not have access to independent lawyers, and may still be at risk of ill-treatment.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please telephone or send telegrams/express/airmail letters in Bahasa Indonesia or English or your own language:
- seeking clarification of the charges against two East Timorese who remain in detention, having been arrested with a group on 20 November 1995 in Viqueque;
- seeking assurances that they will not face any torture or ill-treatment in detention and that they have full and continuing access to lawyers of their own choice.

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APPEALS TO:

MILITARY COMMANDER REGION IX/UDAYANA
(covers Bali, Lombok, Nusa Tenggara and
East Timor)
Maj Gen H A Rivai
Pangdam IX/Udayana
Markas Besar KODAM IX/Udayana
Denpasar, Bali, Indonesia
Telephone: +62 361 228 095
Telegrams: Pangdam IX/Udayana, Denpasar, Bali, Indonesia
Salutation: Dear Major-General

COPIES TO:

SECRETARY GENERAL, NATIONAL COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Prof. Dr. Baharuddin Lopa
Sekretaris Jenderal, Komisi Nasional Hak Azasi Manusia (KOMNAS HAM)
Jl. Pemuda No. 104
Arawamangun
Jakarta Timur, Indonesia

and to diplomatic representatives of East Timor accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 5 April 1996.